



## Palmetto Herd Management Area Esmeralda County, Nevada



### Habitat/Location

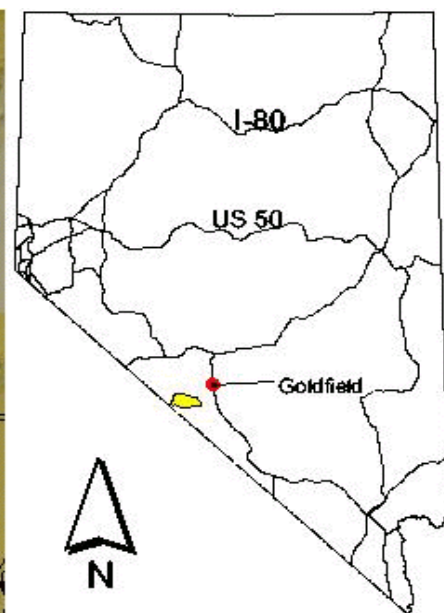
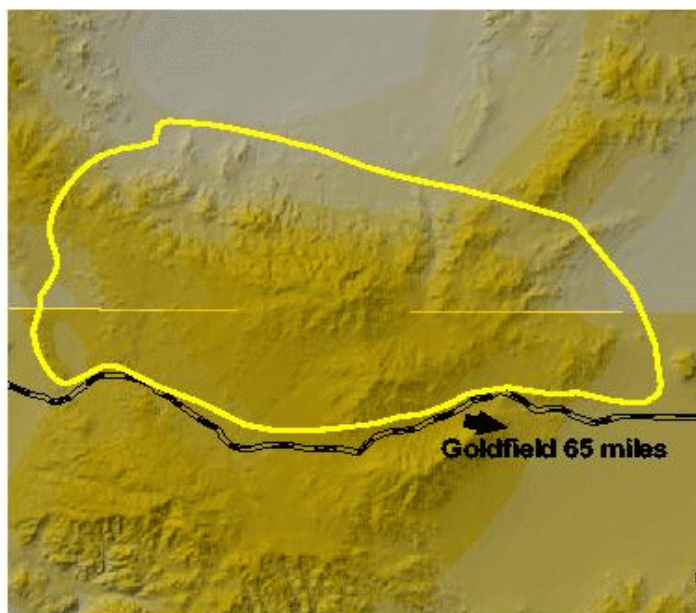
The Palmetto Herd Management Area (HMA) is located north and west of the town of Lida, Nevada, in Esmeralda County. The area consists of 71,200 acres, which spans 23 miles wide and 11 miles long. It consists of mountainous terrain ranging from 6,000 feet in the valley to 9,285 feet in the Palmetto Mountains. The region receives 3 inches of annual precipitation in the valley bottoms and up to 12 inches on the mountain tops.

### Vegetation

The sagebrush vegetation type occurs in mountains and hills with the upper elevations supporting a dense canopy of pinyon-pine, Utah juniper, and mountain-mahogany. Important species include Indian ricegrass, galleta grass, bottlebrush squirreltail, and needlegrass.

### Herd Description

At this time, no conclusive evidence points to why this herd has declined from 76 horses in 1990, to 32 horses in 1992 (one foal), to 15 horses in 1995 (one foal), to 0 horses in 1997. There is rumored to be an abundance of mountain lions in the area. It is also possible that because of poor habitat



conditions, such as heavy (greater than 35 percent) woodland cover, the horses have migrated to an adjacent HMA. However, total population migrations over such a short period of time is highly unlikely and the adjacent HMAs are not showing an influx of animals of this magnitude.

The appropriate management level (AML) for this HMA is 76 horses.